

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended): An apparatus to provide improved blood circulation in a mammal, the apparatus comprising:

a first portion adapted to interact with the left ventricle of a heart, the first portion comprising at least one elongate member, and

a second portion adapted to interact with a blood bearing structure, said second portion ~~being operatively~~ connected with said first portion so that said second portion will cause contraction of said blood bearing structure in response only to expansion of the left ventricle to assist in driving blood circulation.
2. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second portion is adapted to at least partially surround ~~[[an]]~~ the aorta of the circulatory system.
3. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions are tensile members.
4. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions are fluid filled loops ~~[[an]]~~ open to each other.

5. (Original): An apparatus to provide improved blood circulation in a mammal, said apparatus comprising:

first and second means for transferring force between at least a portion of the heart and the aorta, the pulmonary artery or an atrium of the heart.

6. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said first ~~means~~ portion comprises an encircling member adapted to at least partially surround a portion of the left ventricle of a heart.

7. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said first ~~means~~ portion comprises ~~[[an]]~~ a pair of members adapted to be attached to portions of the left ventricle of a heart.

8. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 7, wherein said first and second portions are adapted to form a ribbon shape in use. ~~means comprises a fluid-filled loop adapted to surround at least a portion of the left ventricle of a heart.~~

9. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said first and second portions are in the form of a figure-eight shape ~~second means comprises an encircling member adapted to at least partially surround at least a portion of the aorta, the pulmonary artery or an atrium of the heart.~~

10. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said first and second portions are adapted to form of a figure-eight shape in use ~~second means comprises a fluid-filled loop adapted to surround at least a portion of the aorta, the pulmonary artery or an atrium of the heart.~~

11. (Currently Amended): A method of providing for improved blood circulation in a mammal, the method comprising:

~~providing an apparatus as in any of claims 1-9,~~

accessing the region of the heart of said mammal; and

positioning said an apparatus about at least a portion of the heart and the aorta, the pulmonary artery or an atrium of the heart in a configuration selected from a figure-eight, a bow and a triple-loop.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions are adapted to form of a triple-loop shape in use.

14. (New): An apparatus to provide improved blood circulation in a mammal, the apparatus comprising:

a first portion adapted to at least partially encircle a portion of the left ventricle of a heart,

a second portion adapted to at least partially encircle at least one of the aorta and pulmonary artery;

an elongate transmission link, said link adapted to run along a wall of the heart directly between the first and second portions.

15. (New): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said link comprises a conduit in fluid connection with each of said first and second portions, and the apparatus is filled with fluid.

16. (New): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus includes only a single elongate connector.

17. (New): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said link has a different cross-sectional geometry than either the first portion or the second portion.